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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the letters which the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to each of you, in which he claimed that United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi territory had violated Iraqi airspace, requested that steps be taken to put an end to such activities, which contravened the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law, and reasserted Iraq's right to request compensation in accordance with law for the damage sustained as a result of such acts.

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I should like to assure you that the statements of the Permanent Representative of Iraq, claiming that the United States and United Kingdom aircraft mentioned above had taken off from Saudi territory, are completely gratuitous and unfounded.

Moreover, I wish to point out that there exist Security Council resolutions, adopted in the wake of the aggression launched by Iraq against Kuwait in August 1990, as well as related measures, to which Iraq itself consented at the time. Iraq knows very well that the main reason why the international sanctions and the related measures that were imposed on it have been maintained is that it has not implemented all of the Security Council resolutions concerning its aggression against Kuwait which it had claimed to approve.

As to the passages in which the Permanent Representative of Iraq reasserts his country's right, enshrined in law, to request compensation in accordance with the principle of international liability for the moral and material damage sustained, we wish to reaffirm that the liability for such damage falls squarely on the Iraqi Government, whose policies of aggression, and the consequences arising therefrom, led to the adoption of international resolutions and measures based on the international legal order.

While condemning Iraq's requests, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to reassert its right, enshrined in law, to request compensation for the moral and

material damage sustained as a result of the aggression launched by Iraq against the Saudi territory and people.

Moreover, while denouncing the fallaciousness of the statements contained in the letters from the Permanent Representative of Iraq, which do not contain the slightest particle of truth, either in their totality or in their minute details, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to restate its firm resolve to abide by all treaties, practices, instruments and laws in force at the international level and to observe strictly the principle of the inviolability of frontiers, in accordance with the agreements signed, ratified and deposited with international organizations. In its policy towards its neighbours, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia applies the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect, in accordance with the rules embodied in international law, the international legal order and the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdulrahman AL-AHMED
Chargé d'affaires a.i.